

Message Text

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62

ORIGIN SCSE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 195825

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CDES, EC

SUBJECT: DEATH: SHIPMENT OF REMAINS

REF: QUITO 5541

1. WHILE THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND REFTTEL, WE ASSUME THE POST'S QUESTION IS WHETHER BONES SHOULD BE TREATED AS REMAINS OR CREMAINS. PROVIDING LOCAL HEALTH LAW ALLOWS EXHUMATION AT THIS TIME, BONES MAY BE SHIPPED IN ACCORDANCE WITH 7 FAM 442.4. THE SIZE OF THE SHIPPING CONTAINER NEED NOT EQUAL THE SIZE OF A REGULAR SIZE COFFIN, BUT MAY VARY DEPENDING ON THE SIZE AND LENGTH OF THE BONES. UNLESS THE LOCAL DEATH CERTIFICATE SHOWS THAT THE DECEASED DIED OF A QUARANTINABLE DISEASE, THE BONES NEED NOT BE PLACED IN A HERMETICALLY SEALED COFFIN. LIKEWISE, DECEASED'S BONES MAY BE SHIPPED IN AN URN IN ACCORDANCE WITH 7 FAM 442.3.2 IF DEATH DID NOT RESULT FROM A QUARANTINABLE DISEASE.

2. WITH REGARD TO THE ABOVE SHIPMENTS, POST SHOULD MAKE SHIPMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH WISHES OF DECEASED'S FAMILY. POST SHOULD ALSO ENSURE THAT LOCAL DEATH CERTIFICATE AND OTHER NECESSARY DOCUMENTS ARE ATTACHED TO COFFIN AND OR UNCLASSIFIED

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